

## SENATE BILL NO. 203

INTRODUCED BY J. SHOCKLEY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR PERIODIC REPLACEMENT OF STATE LICENSE PLATES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 49-4-301, 49-4-302, 49-4-304, 61-3-301, 61-3-332, 61-3-407, 61-3-426, 61-3-446, 61-3-448, 61-3-458, 61-3-463, 61-3-464, 61-3-479, AND 61-4-128, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 49-4-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**"49-4-301. Eligibility for special parking permit.** (1) The department of justice shall issue a special parking permit to a person who has a disability that limits or impairs the person's mobility and for whom a licensed physician, a licensed chiropractor, or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, as provided in 37-8-202, submits a certification to the department, by electronic or other means prescribed by the department, that the person meets one of the following criteria:

(a) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

(b) is severely limited in ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition;

(c) is so severely disabled that the person cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;

(d) uses portable oxygen;

(e) is restricted by lung disease to the extent that forced expiratory respiratory volume, when measured by spirometry, is less than 1 liter per second or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

(f) has impairment because of cardiovascular disease or a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified as class III or IV under standards accepted by the American heart association; or

(g) has a disability resulting from an acute sensitivity to automobile emissions or from another disease or physical condition that limits or impairs the person's mobility and that is documented by the licensed physician, the licensed chiropractor, or the licensed advanced practice registered nurse as being comparable in severity to

the other conditions listed in this subsection (1).

(2) (a) A person who has a condition expected to improve within 6 months may be issued a temporary placard for a period not to exceed 6 months but may not be issued a special license plate under 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8). If the condition exists after 6 months, a new temporary placard must be issued for the time period prescribed by the applicant's physician, chiropractor, or advanced practice registered nurse, not to exceed 24 months, upon receipt of a later paper or electronic certification from the disabled person's physician, chiropractor, or advanced practice registered nurse that the conditions specified in subsection (1) continue to exist and are expected to continue for the time specified.

(b) A person who meets one of the criteria in subsection (1) for what is considered to be a permanent condition, as determined by a licensed physician, a licensed chiropractor, or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, may, by application to the department, by electronic or other means prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate under 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8) and is not required to reapply for the special license plate when the vehicle is reregistered.

(3) The department of justice may issue special parking permits to an agency or business that provides transportation as a service for persons with a disability. The permits must be used only to load and unload persons with a disability in the special parking place provided for in 49-4-302. As used in this subsection, "disability" means a physical impairment that severely limits a person's ability to walk.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (3), an applicant may not receive more than one permit."

**Section 2.** Section 49-4-302, MCA, is amended to read:

**"49-4-302. Privileges of permitholder -- privilege for disabled veteran -- exemptions from time limits -- requirements for special parking spaces.** (1) The parking permit issued under this part, when displayed, entitles a person to park a motor vehicle in a special parking space reserved for a person with a disability, whether on public property or on private property available for public use, when the person for whom the permit was issued is using the special parking space to enter or exit the vehicle.

(2) A vehicle may not be parked in a parking space on public or private property that is clearly identified by an official sign as being reserved for use by a person with a disability unless:

(a) the vehicle is lawfully displaying a parking permit issued under this part, a distinguishing license plate or placard for a person with a disability that was issued by a foreign jurisdiction conferring parking privileges similar to those conferred in subsection (1), or a specially inscribed license plate displaying the letters "DV" issued

1 under 61-3-458(3)(b) or (3)(i) or displaying a wheelchair as provided in 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8); and

2 (b) the reserved parking space is being used by the person for whom the permit, plate, or placard was  
3 issued to enter or exit the vehicle.

4 (3) The governing body of a city, town, or county may exempt vehicles lawfully displaying parking permits  
5 issued under this part and vehicles lawfully displaying specially inscribed license plates displaying the letters "DV"  
6 issued under 61-3-458(3)(b) or (3)(i) or displaying a wheelchair as provided in 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8) and parked in public  
7 places along public streets from any time limitation imposed upon parking, except in areas where:

8 (a) stopping, standing, or parking of all vehicles is prohibited;

9 (b) only special vehicles may be parked; or

10 (c) parking is not allowed during specific periods of the day in order to accommodate heavy traffic.

11 (4) In accordance with subsection (2), the governing body of a city, town, or county or appropriate state  
12 agency may impose all, but not less than all, of the following requirements with respect to any special parking  
13 space constructed after September 30, 1985, and reserved for a person with a disability or a permitholder on  
14 ways of this state open to the public, as defined in 61-8-101:

15 (a) The space must be located on a smooth, level surface as near as practicable to building entrances  
16 or walkways that have curb cuts and appropriately designed ramps and access lanes to accommodate  
17 wheelchairs.

18 (b) If parallel to curbside, the parking space must be separated from an adjacent space, either in the front  
19 or the rear, by at least 5 feet of striped no-parking area.

20 (c) If at an angle to curbside, the parking space must be at least 8 feet wide and free of obstruction if  
21 located at the end of a line of angle parking spaces, and each other angle parking space designated for a person  
22 with a disability must be at least 13 feet wide.

23 (d) A parking space reserved for a person with a disability must be designated by a sign showing the  
24 international symbol of accessibility, indicating that a permit is required, and stating the penalty for a violation.  
25 In order to meet the penalty statement requirement, signs existing on October 1, 1993, must have attached a  
26 decal stating the penalty for a violation. The sign must be attached to a wall or post in a way that it is not obscured  
27 by a vehicle parked in the space."

28  
29 **Section 3.** Section 49-4-304, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"49-4-304. Special license plate or card to be provided and displayed -- additional cards allowed**

1 **for owners of more than one vehicle.** (1) Except as authorized in 49-4-303, unless the department of justice  
2 issued a special license plate under 61-3-332(9)(8) or 61-3-458(3)(b) or (3)(i) indicating a special parking  
3 privilege, the department shall provide a card to be displayed on or in a motor vehicle to indicate a parking  
4 privilege granted under this part. The special license plate must be affixed to the vehicle according to 61-3-301,  
5 or the card must be prominently displayed in the windshield of a vehicle when the parking privilege is being used  
6 by the person with a disability in a vehicle other than the one to which a special license plate is affixed.

7 (2) Subject to the provisions of 49-4-301 through 49-4-305, a person who is eligible to receive a special  
8 parking permit and who owns more than one motor vehicle may request and the department of justice shall  
9 provide additional cards described in subsection (1) to equal the number of motor vehicles, other than commercial  
10 vehicles, owned by the person.

11 (3) Upon application under 49-4-301, a person with a disability who does not hold a driver's license or  
12 does not own a vehicle may receive a card described in subsection (1) to be displayed in a vehicle in which the  
13 person with a disability is being conveyed when the parking privilege is being used.

14 (4) The card must bear a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability."  
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16 **Section 4.** Section 61-3-301, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"61-3-301. Registration -- license plate required -- display.** (1) (a) Except as provided in 61-4-120,  
18 61-4-129, and subsection (1)(b) of this section, a person may not operate a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole  
19 trailer, or travel trailer upon the public highways of Montana unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole  
20 trailer, or travel trailer is properly registered and has the proper license plates conspicuously displayed on the  
21 motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer. A license plate must be securely fastened to prevent  
22 it from swinging and may not be obstructed from plain view.

23 (b) A motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer must have a single license  
24 plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle. A custom vehicle or street rod registered under 61-3-320(1)(b) or  
25 (1)(c)(iii) may display a single license plate firmly attached to the rear exterior of the custom vehicle or street rod.  
26 All other motor vehicles must have one license plate displayed on the front and one license plate displayed on  
27 the rear of the motor vehicle.

28 (c) A person may not display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer at the  
29 same time a number assigned to it under any motor vehicle law except as provided in this chapter.

30 (2) A person may not purchase or display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel

trailer a license plate bearing the number assigned to any county, as provided in 61-3-332, other than the county where the vehicle is domiciled or the county where the trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is domiciled at the time of application for registration.

(3) It is unlawful to:

(a) display license plates issued to one motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer on any other motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer unless legally transferred as provided by statute;

(b) repaint old license plates to resemble current license plates; or

(c) display a prior design of ~~standard license plates issued under 61-3-332(3)(a) or~~ special license plates issued under 61-3-332~~(8)(7)~~ or 61-3-421 more than 18 months after a new design of ~~standard license plates or~~ special license plates has been issued, except as provided in ~~61-3-332(3)(b) and (3)(c)~~, 61-3-448; or 61-3-468.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "conspicuously displayed" means that the required license plates are obviously visible and firmly attached to:

(a) the front bumper and the rear bumper of a motor vehicle equipped with front and rear bumpers, except for a custom vehicle or street rod as provided in subsection (1)(b); or

(b) a clearly visible location on the rear of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer."

**Section 5.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-3-332. Standard license plates.** (1) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, and fleet license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of standard license plates must be issued for motor vehicles, quadricycles, travel trailers, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers registered in this state or offered for sale by a vehicle dealer licensed in this state. Standard license plates issued to licensed vehicle dealers must be readily distinguishable from license plates issued to vehicles owned by other persons.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and ~~subsections~~ subsection (2)(b), ~~(3)(b), and (3)(c)~~ of this section, all standard license plates for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers must bear a distinctive marking, as determined by the department, and be furnished by the department. ~~In years when standard license plates are not issued, the~~ The department shall provide a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle.

(b) For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-562 and motor vehicles

described in 61-3-303(9) that are permanently registered, the department shall provide a distinctive registration decal indicating that the motor vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal must be affixed to the rear license plate of the permanently registered motor vehicle.

~~(3) (a) Beginning January 1, 2010, and every 4 years after that date, the department shall manufacture and issue new standard license plates to replace previously issued standard license plates upon renewal.~~

~~———— (b) A motor vehicle that is registered for a 13-month to a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-311, may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire registration period.~~

~~———— (c) A light vehicle described in subsection (2)(b) or a motor home that is permanently registered may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire period that the light vehicle or motor home is permanently registered.~~

~~(4)~~(3) For trailers and motor vehicles, other than motorcycles and quadricycles, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. Except for generic specialty license plates, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on all license plates, and the word "Montana" must be placed on each license plate. All license plates must be treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

~~(5)~~(4) The distinctive registration numbers for standard license plates must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, and fleet license plates, the distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the motor vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

~~(6)~~(5) For the use of exempt motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers and motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are exempt from the registration fee as provided in 61-3-321, in addition to the markings provided in this section, standard license plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

(a) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical

1 condition of numbered plates requires it.

2 (b) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are owned by the counties,  
3 municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not  
4 operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for motor  
5 vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol  
6 and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the standard  
7 license plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT".  
8 Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers of each  
9 of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within each  
10 county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these standard license plates are  
11 of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of  
12 the license plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the plates.

13 ~~(7)~~(6) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:  
14 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;  
15 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17;  
16 Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25;  
17 Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33;  
18 Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41;  
19 Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield,  
20 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must  
21 be assigned numbers by the department as they are formed, beginning with the number 57.

22 ~~(8)~~(7) ~~(a)~~ Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates  
23 authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be  
24 a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection ~~(5)~~ (4), except that the county number must be  
25 replaced by a design that distinguishes each separate plate series. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this  
26 section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of standard license  
27 plates, must be placed or mounted on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owned by the person who  
28 is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the motor vehicle, trailer,  
29 semitrailer, or pole trailer, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, trailer,  
30 semitrailer, or pole trailer.

~~(b) Beginning January 1, 2008, and every succeeding 4 years, the department shall manufacture and issue a new set of special license plates, bearing the same design and, if requested by the owner, the same plate number to replace, upon renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle under 61-3-314 and payment of the new plate fee provided for in 61-3-321, any special license plates issued prior to the prescribed date. This requirement applies to collegiate license plates authorized under 61-3-461 through 61-3-468, generic specialty license plates authorized under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, and commemorative centennial license plates authorized under 61-3-448.~~

~~(9)(8)~~ (a) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability.

(b) If the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the motor vehicle shall provide, upon request of a person authorized to enforce special parking laws or ordinances in this or any state, evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate in the form of a valid special parking permit issued to or renewed by the vehicle owner under 49-4-304 and 49-4-305.

(c) A person with a permanent condition, as provided in 49-4-301(2)(b), who has been issued a special license plate upon written application, as provided in this subsection ~~(9)~~ (8), is not required to reapply upon reregistration of the motor vehicle.

~~(10)(9)~~ The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733."

**Section 6.** Section 61-3-407, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-3-407. Personalized license plates for disabled -- special veteran and generic specialty license plates.** Subject to the provisions of 61-3-405 and 61-3-406, an application for ~~standard~~ license plates bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability under 61-3-332~~(9)(8)~~, special veteran license plates under 61-3-458(3), or generic specialty license plates under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 may be combined with an application for personalized plates. The application must be made on a form supplied by the department."

**Section 7.** Section 61-3-426, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-3-426. Combined license plates.** (1) An application for license plates for amateur radio operators



1 may be combined with an application for the special license plates issued under 61-3-458(3) or with an  
2 application for special license plates issued to a person with a disability who complies with the provisions in  
3 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8).

4 (2) Issuance of combined license plates is subject to 61-3-422.

5 (3) The combined license plates must display the official amateur radio call letters of the owner as  
6 assigned to the owner by the federal communications commission. The plates must also display the design or  
7 decal provided for in 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8) or 61-3-458(3)."

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9 **Section 8.** Section 61-3-446, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"61-3-446. Retention of special license plates.** If during a registration year the holder of special license  
11 plates issued under 61-3-332~~(8)~~(7) or generic specialty license plates issued as provided in 61-3-472 through  
12 61-3-481 disposes of the motor vehicle to which the plates are affixed, the holder may retain the plates and  
13 transfer them to another vehicle under 61-3-335."

14  
15 **Section 9.** Section 61-3-448, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"61-3-448. Commemorative centennial license plates -- continued use authorized.** ~~Subject to the~~  
17 ~~limitation set forth in 61-3-332, a~~ A person who owned and displayed commemorative centennial license plates  
18 on a motor vehicle on or before June 30, 1996, may continue to display the commemorative centennial plates  
19 on the motor vehicle as long as the motor vehicle is registered under this chapter."

20  
21 **Section 10.** Section 61-3-458, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"61-3-458. Special plates for military personnel, veterans, and spouses.** (1) (a) Active military  
23 personnel, veterans, or the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may be  
24 issued special military or veteran license plates as provided in this section.

25 (b) Subject to the provisions of 61-3-332 and except as otherwise provided in this chapter, special  
26 license plates issued pursuant to this section must be numbered in sets of two with a different number on each  
27 set and must be properly displayed as provided in 61-3-301. Special military or veteran license plates may not  
28 be issued for a motorcycle, quadricycle, semitrailer, or pole trailer. Special military or veteran license plates  
29 bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability may be issued to a person who meets the  
30 qualifications under 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8) and this section.

(2) (a) Upon application, after paying all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration fees and special license plate fees and providing an official certificate from the applicant's unit commander verifying the individual's eligibility and authorizing the department to issue the plates to the individual, eligible military personnel may be issued one set of special military license plates as provided in this subsection (2).

(b) A member of the Montana national guard who is a state resident may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the letters "NG". However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department when the member becomes ineligible.

(c) A member of the reserve armed forces of the United States who is a state resident may be issued special license plates according to the member's branch of service verified in the application with a design or decal displaying one of the following: United States army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); or United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department when the member becomes ineligible.

(d) An active member of the regular armed forces of the United States who is a state resident may be issued special license plates inscribed with a symbol signifying the United States army, United States navy, United States air force, United States marine corps, or United States coast guard, according to the member's branch of service verified in the application. However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible.

(3) (a) Upon application, after presenting proper identification and a department of defense form 214 (DD-214) or its successor or documents showing an other-than-dishonorable discharge or a reenlistment verifying the applicant's eligibility and paying the veterans' cemetery fee specified in 61-3-459 and all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration fees under this chapter, subject to the provisions of 61-3-460, an eligible veteran must be issued any set and more than one set of the special license plates provided for in this subsection (3) that the member requests and is eligible to receive.

(b) A veteran may be issued special license plates displaying the letters "DV", which entitles the veteran to the parking privileges allowed to a person with a special parking permit issued under Title 49, chapter 4, part 3, if the veteran:

(i) has been awarded the purple heart and has been rated by the U.S. department of veterans affairs as 50% or more disabled because of a service-connected injury; or

(ii) is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability.

(c) A veteran who has been awarded the purple heart may be issued special license plates with the purple heart decal displaying the words "combat wounded".

(d) A veteran who was captured and held prisoner by the military force of a foreign nation may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of war" or an abbreviation that the department considers appropriate.

(e) If the veteran was a member of the United States armed forces on December 7, 1941, and during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) was on station at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu or was offshore from Pearl Harbor at a distance of not more than 3 miles, the veteran may be issued special license plates designed to show that the veteran is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack.

(f) A person who is a member of the legion of valor may be issued special plates displaying a design or decal depicting the recognized legion of valor medallion.

(g) A veteran may be issued special license plates displaying the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States army, United States navy, United States air force, United States marine corps, or United States coast guard, according to the veteran's service record verified in the application.

(h) A member or a former member of the Montana national guard eligible to receive a military retirement may be issued special license plates displaying the Montana national guard insignia and the words "National Guard veteran".

(i) A veteran who qualifies under subsections (3)(b) and (3)(c) may be issued special combination license plates displaying the letters "DV" and displaying a purple heart decal with the words "combat wounded". A person who receives the combination plates is entitled to the same parking privileges as provided in subsection (3)(b).

(4) Upon request, after paying the veterans' cemetery fee provided in 61-3-459 and all applicable vehicle registration fees under this chapter, subject to the provisions of 61-3-460, the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may retain the special license plates issued to the deceased veteran, except the special "DV" plates provided for under subsection (3)(b) or the combination plates provided for in subsection (3)(i).

(5) For purposes of this section, "veteran" has the meaning provided in 10-2-101."

**Section 11.** Section 61-3-463, MCA, is amended to read:

1           **"61-3-463. Collegiate license plates.** (1) Subject to the provisions of 61-3-332~~(6)~~(7) and the  
2 requirement that collegiate license plates must have a white reflectorized background, the department shall  
3 design, cause to be manufactured, and issue collegiate license plates as provided in 61-3-464 through 61-3-466.

4           (2) After consultation with each institution, the department shall prescribe the color and insignia to be  
5 displayed on the collegiate license plates for each institution.

6           (3) In addition to each institution's distinctive color and insignia provided in subsection (2), each  
7 collegiate license plate must:

8           (a) be imprinted consecutively with distinctive numerals from 1 through 99999, capital letters A through  
9 Z, or a combination of numerals and letters; and

10          (b) bear a registration decal as provided in 61-3-332.

11          (4) The department shall determine the minimum and maximum number of characters, including both  
12 numerals and letters, on the collegiate license plates.

13          (5) An issue of collegiate license plates may not be ordered or manufactured for any individual institution  
14 unless at least 400 sets of plates are ordered and prepaid."  
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16           **Section 12.** Section 61-3-464, MCA, is amended to read:

17           **"61-3-464. Application for collegiate license plates.** An applicant for collegiate license plates or  
18 renewal of collegiate license plates pursuant to 61-3-465 shall apply in the form and by the date the department  
19 requires. An application for a collegiate license plate may be combined with an application for a license plate  
20 bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability if the applicant meets the qualifications under  
21 61-3-332~~(9)~~(8)."  
22

23           **Section 13.** Section 61-3-479, MCA, is amended to read:

24           **"61-3-479. Issuance of generic specialty license plates -- qualifications.** (1) (a) Except as provided  
25 in subsection (1)(b), the department shall issue a set of generic specialty license plates to a person who applies  
26 for a particular style of generic specialty license plates and pays the donation fee established by the plate sponsor  
27 and the administrative fee required in 61-3-480.

28           (b) If the sponsor of a generic specialty license plate is not listed on the county collection report published  
29 by the state and required under 15-1-504 as of the initial distribution date for the sale of the sponsor's plates, the  
30 department shall require the sponsor to collect the initial donation fee from, and issue a special certificate of

1 registration to, a person who is eligible to receive the sponsor's generic specialty license plates. The person shall  
2 present the special certificate of registration upon application for the generic specialty license plates.

3 (2) A set of generic specialty license plates may be issued for any motor vehicle except a motorcycle  
4 or a quadricycle.

5 (3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 and 61-3-562, a person who receives generic  
6 specialty license plates is subject to the same rules and laws as those that govern standard license plates.

7 (b) Except as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 and 61-3-562, the department is subject to the  
8 same rules and laws that govern the issuance of standard license plates.

9 (c) Generic specialty license plates issued under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 are not subject to any  
10 maximum issuance or use limitation that may be imposed on standard license plates.

11 (4) A person may combine an application for a generic specialty license plate with an application for a  
12 license plate with a design bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability  
13 as provided in 61-3-332(9)(8)."  
14

15 **Section 14.** Section 61-4-128, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"61-4-128. Common standards -- dealer plates -- demonstrator plates -- identification cards -- fees.**

17 (1) (a) Dealer, demonstrator, and courtesy license plates authorized under this part must be designed by the  
18 department in a manner that is similar to standard license plates furnished under 61-3-332, but the word "dealer",  
19 "demonstrator", or "courtesy" must be included in the plate design.

20 (b) Dealer, demonstrator, and courtesy license plates must be numbered in a manner that is readily  
21 distinguishable from other plate styles issued by the department. The numbering system for dealer plates must  
22 contain the distinctive license number assigned by the department to a dealer and a number or alphanumeric that  
23 relates to the assignment of sets of dealer plates to a dealer. The numbering system for demonstrator plates may  
24 be sequential and unrelated to the number of demonstrator plates or the distinctive license number assigned to  
25 a dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction.

26 ~~(c) Dealer, demonstrator, and courtesy plates issued under this part must be replaced on the same cycle~~  
27 ~~that is required for standard license plates under 61-3-332.~~

28 ~~(d)~~(c) Except as provided in 61-4-124, dealer, demonstrator, and courtesy plates must display a  
29 registration decal, affixed as prescribed by the department, for the calendar year for which use of the plate or  
30 plates is authorized under this part.

(2) (a) Identification cards must be designed by the department and furnished to dealers to authorize the demonstration of a motorboat or personal watercraft, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle by a dealer licensed under this part or a customer of a dealer licensed under this part. Each identification card must include the dealer's name and address and the license number assigned by the department to the dealer and must designate the type of power sports vehicle for which its use is authorized, such as a motorboat or personal watercraft, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle.

(b) The department may use the same numbering system for identification cards as it uses for demonstrator plates.

(3) (a) Upon issuance of a license to a dealer whose business includes the sale of motorboats or personal watercraft, snowmobiles, or off-highway vehicles, the department shall furnish identification cards to a dealer as follows:

(i) for a dealer who sells motorboats or personal watercraft, one identification card;

(ii) for a dealer who sells snowmobiles, two identification cards; and

(iii) for a dealer who sells off-highway vehicles, two identification cards.

(b) The dealer may obtain additional identification cards for \$2, as needed, and upon submitting justification for the need to the department.

(4) (a) An identification card issued to a dealer who sells motorboats or personal watercraft may be displayed on a dealer's motorboat or personal watercraft while the motorboat or personal watercraft is operating for a purpose related to the buying, selling, exchanging, or performance testing of the motorboat or personal watercraft by the dealer, manufacturer, or potential buyer.

(b) An identification card issued to a dealer who sells snowmobiles must be carried by the dealer when demonstrating the dealer's snowmobiles or by the dealer's customer.

(c) An identification card issued to a dealer who sells off-highway vehicles must be carried by the dealer when the dealer's off-highway vehicles are being demonstrated for sale purposes or by the dealer's customer.

(5) (a) All dealer, demonstrator, and courtesy plates and identification cards issued under this part expire on December 31 of the year of issue and must be renewed annually.

(b) A dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction that files the annual report required under 61-4-120, 61-4-124, or 61-4-125 on or before December 31 of the calendar year may display or use dealer or demonstrator plates and identification cards assigned for the prior calendar year through the last day of February of the following year."

- END -